

Thursday, September 13, 2007



# THE DAILY BEAT

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*This publication is provided by the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs and the State-Tribal Economic Development Commission. The Daily Beat provides daily updates, announcements and articles relevant to Indian Country in Montana. Current and archived issues can be found on the State-Tribal Economic Development Commission website. Questions? Email Billie Rusek @ [brusek@mt.gov](mailto:brusek@mt.gov) or Heather Sobrepeña-George at [hsobrepena@mt.gov](mailto:hsobrepena@mt.gov)*

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## MONTANA TRIBAL NEWS:

### HERITAGE, PERSONAL EXPERIENCE DRIVE NOT AFRAID

By DANIEL PERSON, Big Horn County News (09/06/07)

In his first month as Justice of the Peace, Leroy Not Afraid asked himself what he had gotten himself into. He was overwhelmed by the steep learning curve that goes along with being a judge, going to City Judge Janice Heath for guidance.

Now, eight months on, he says he will surely run for reelection.

Not Afraid is the first American Indian to serve as Justice of the Peace in Big Horn County, elected last November by a narrow margin to beat incumbent Natasha Morton.

Already, he said, his goals have changed immensely.

Not Afraid's race was the sole reason for his pursuit of the office, he said.

### STATS DON'T LIE: BIG HORN COUNTY NEEDS TO BUCKLE UP

By DEBORAH HAINES, Big Horn County News (09/06/07)

The Crow DUI Task Force and Big Horn County Sheriff Dept. recently conducted a safety belt check-point on 3rd Street in Hardin and the Crow Reservation by the I-90 ramp from 3 p.m. to 4 a.m. Of 277 vehicles observed entering or leaving Hardin, 123 vehicle occupants (44 percent) were properly seat belted while 154 (56 percent) vehicle occupants were not belted.

Sheriff's Deputy Jason Shigley found four children belted and five not belted, which reflects the exact same adult

seat belt percentage as above. The Crow DUI Task Force tabulators had eight unbelted youngsters travel through their observation point. No toddlers, babies or child safety seats were witnessed by the check point personnel.

Historically, less than half of our population uses safety belts or child safety seats in this area. Injury prevention data compiled since 1995 by Indian Health Services on traffic crashes indicate our area suffers more than five times the national average of traffic fatalities and is more than 50 percent below the average of the National Department of Transportation's 90 percent buckle up expectations for the vehicle traveling public.

### SENATE PANEL OKS INDIAN HEALTH CARE BILL

By NOELLE STRAUB, Gazette Washington Bureau (09/13/07)

WASHINGTON - To cheers and applause from an audience that included many American Indians, the Senate Finance Committee on Wednesday unanimously approved a long-awaited bill aimed at improving American Indian health care.

At a boisterous rally later in the day, Finance Chairman Max Baucus, fellow Montana Democrat Sen. Jon Tester and other senators joined tribal leaders from Montana and elsewhere to celebrate the bill's passage.

"This is a tremendous moment," Baucus told a packed room in the Capitol. "There's nothing more important than getting just due for Native Americans."

### RULING UPHELD IN DRILLING CASE- Both sides not sure when drilling would begin in Powder River Basin

By The Associated Press (09/13/07)

HELENA - A federal appeals court Tuesday upheld a judge's ruling that allows limited coalbed methane development in Montana's portion of the Powder River

Basin.

The 2-1 decision by a panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed an April 2005 ruling by U.S. Magistrate Judge Richard Anderson that allowed limited drilling on federal leases in southern Montana while the Bureau of Land Management expands an environmental impact report for the area.

The Northern Cheyenne Tribe and the Northern Plains Resources Council had challenged the decision. The groups asked for and received an emergency order from the appeals court in June 2005 halting all drilling pending the outcome of their appeal.

### **TRANSPARENCY, COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT GOALS OF DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

By John McGill, Glacier Reporter (09/12/07)

"The goal is to create a progressive, transparent department," said Steve Juneau Tuesday, Sept. 11. Representing his firm, LaMar Associates, Juneau said he'd been working with the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council since last June to help design and create the new Blackfeet Department of Public Safety.

"We've been working to develop a structure, a foundation for a department of public safety," Juneau said. "The structure is steeped in community policing, community strategy in a statistical analysis of crime, and community partnership."

### **GLACIER COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE OFFERING FREE 'BUILDING COMMUNITIES' COURSE TO CITIZENS, COMMUNITY LEADERS**

By John McGill, Glacier Reporter (09/12/07)

If you thought the Glacier County Extension Agent's only job was to help you rid your garden of pests, motivate budding 4-Hers or educate farmers and ranchers on the latest techniques available, think again. Glacier County Extension Agent Damon Bunting is offering a new web-based community and economic development program to interested county residents and community leaders free of charge.

Bunting has registered the local extension office as an official site for the University of Wisconsin-Madison's "Building Communities" web-training course.

Bunting utilized continuing education funds from his budget to cover the \$300 site fee, which means any additional community and county members who sign up for the course can take it free of charge.

"Many people have requested information on how to approach community development and I believe this course will be a helpful introduction," said Bunting. He

believes "this will be a great way to include people in the community who may be interested or have a role in community development. It will also help us learn how to assess our strengths and build upon our assets," added Bunting.

The course will be offered at the Glacier County Annex in Room A from 9-10 a.m. on the second Friday of every month. Classes are set to begin on Sept. 14 and end June 13, 2008.

"If you are unable to attend the live broadcast, a recorded session of the class will be available for review online for two weeks after the original broadcast," explained Bunting.

"The first broadcast is set for this Friday and will discuss how to engage communities and stakeholders to maximize positive changes," said Bunting, who has set up a four-foot big screen to allow easier viewing of the web-cast by participants.

If you would like to attend these sessions, please contact Bunting at 873-2239.

### **BTBC INTRODUCES NEWLY CREATED DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

By John McGill, Glacier Reporter (09/12/07)

The Blackfeet Tribal Business Council announced Sept. 10 the development of the Department of Public Safety. The newly created department will provide progressive policing and partnership with the citizens of the Blackfeet Nation. The Blackfeet Nation has submitted a PL93-638 Self Determination proposal to incrementally contract uniform police, criminal investigation and radio dispatch from the Bureau of Indian Affairs by Sept. 30.

"The Blackfeet Nation has adopted a progressive structure for the department of public safety, steeped in realistic community policing concepts and proactive crime fighting techniques to provide professional policing services to our citizens," explained Roger Running Crane, vice-chairman of the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council. "We are committed to insuring our Department of Public Safety is professional, progressive and that it displays the highest form of integrity."

### **PROJECT TO BRING DOCS TO MONTANA RESERVATIONS**

By KAREN OGDEN, Tribune Enterprise Editor (07/29/07)

Billings surgeon Joseph Erpelding has ridden a ferry boat equipped with a blood lab up the Amazon in an aid effort through his church, Faith Chapel.

He's traveled to Zambia to treat children with trachoma, an eye infection that blinds millions in Third World countries, through an aid group called Save the Sight.

But some of his most important work has been in Montana, where he's worked for a decade as a contract Indian Health Service surgeon, mostly on the Crow and Cheyenne reservations.

Erpelding is working with the National Indian Health Board and the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons to launch a pilot program to bring goodwill surgeons to the Crow and Cheyenne reservations, much like the Doctors Without Borders program that operates abroad.

### **COBELL CRITICIZES NEW INDIAN MUSEUM DIRECTOR**

By FAITH BREMNER, Tribune Washington Bureau (09/13/07)

WASHINGTON — Kevin Gover, the Smithsonian Institution's choice to head the National Museum of the American Indian, is drawing fire because of his involvement in a lawsuit alleging the federal government lost millions of dollars belonging to thousands of Indians.

Elouise Cobell, a member of the Blackfeet Tribe and the lead plaintiff in the class-action lawsuit, said Wednesday that she is outraged Gover was chosen to be the museum's new director.

In 1999, Gover, then the Interior Department's assistant secretary for Indian affairs, former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and former Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin were found in civil contempt of court for failing to produce documents and for deceiving the court in the case.

### **U.N. SET TO VOTE ON INDIGENOUS RIGHTS DECLARATION**

By JODI RAVE - Lee Enterprises - 09/13/07

NEW YORK — The U.N. General Assembly is prepared to vote today on a declaration that would support the human rights of indigenous people — a document more than two decades in the making.

But key nations, including the United States, are poised to put up a fight.

If passed, the declaration supports the right of indigenous people to protect their land, resources, languages, economic development, education, rights to self-determination, hunting, fishing and sacred sites.

"It addresses the historic discrimination practiced by

states. It's never been done before," said William David, a staff attorney for the Indian Law Resource Center.

### **BIA SEEKS INPUT ON 'MODERNIZATION' INITIATIVE**

From INDIANZ.COM (09/12/07)

The Bureau of Indian Affairs is moving forward with talks to modernize the agency after encountering a "rocky start," assistant secretary Carl Artman said on Tuesday.

The BIA began a series of meetings last week aimed at soliciting input from Indian Country on how to improve the agency that serves over 500 tribes and more than 2 million Native Americans. Challenges include budget constraints, outdated technology and an aging workforce.

### **BUSH ADMINISTRATION OBJECTS TO COBELL DATA REQUEST**

From INDIANZ.COM (09/11/07)

Despite an order from a federal judge, the Interior Department said on Monday it would not turn over electronic trust data to the Cobell plaintiffs.

In a 20-page filing, lawyers for Secretary Dirk Kempthorne objected to the plaintiffs' request for data on 67 Indian trust beneficiaries. According to the government, the request was too broad and would take too long to fulfill.

"To date, Interior defendants have devoted over 40 man-hours of computer search and data collection time — more than 20 times the effort plaintiffs proposed — and the search results and data gathering for three computer systems are not yet complete," the brief from the Department of Justice said.

The objection comes a month before the Bush administration heads to trial over its historical accounting of the Individual Indian Money (IIM) trust. Judge James Robertson ordered an October 10 hearing to determine how much Indian beneficiaries have or have not been paid.

As a prelude to the trial, Robertson on July 9 allowed the Cobell plaintiffs to seek electronic records for no more than 100 trust beneficiaries. He said it was more than reasonable to obtain the data, since it's a part of the accounting process.

### **SELF-DETERMINATION IS KEY TO AIDING AMERICAN INDIANS**

By JAY AMBROSE, Scripps Howard News Service (09/08/07)

American Indians are poorer than any other racial or ethnic group in the United States, so let's try yet more

dependence on federal money, even more heavy-handed bureaucratic control and more court rulings to keep creditors off their case.

Along with casinos, that will fix things, right?

Wrong, and not just by theoretical calculation, but by empirical investigation that testifies to what really, truly does work: Freedom from the overreaching of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, strategic thinking by tribal councils that eschew politics as usual, reliable rule of law and business initiatives.

Talk to Terry Anderson of the Property and Environment Research Center in Bozeman, Mont., and you get to a fundamental truth. Friends from out of the country wanted to visit a reservation. He warned them they would encounter poverty, but instead they encountered an Indian rancher who was prosperous and distinct from many in his tribe. He owned his property.

While some land on reservations is privately held, most is held in either individual or tribal trust by the BIA with the rationale that Indians need protection from outsiders. As Anderson discovered, the privately held land is far more productive than the trust land. When I asked him why, he had a short answer: "Incentives matter." Indians, he said, have traditions of private property, as in color-coding arrows to show who had rights to a slain buffalo.

## **THE COMMERCE CLAUSE AND INDIAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

EDITORS REPORT, Indian Country Today © (08/30/07)

The commerce clause is primarily aimed at creating stable and efficient markets, but government policy has not provided viable market conditions to American Indian tribes.

Have you ever wondered why the main reference to American Indians in the U.S. Constitution is in the commerce clause? In Article I, Section 8, the Constitution states that Congress shall have the power "To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes." By the time the Constitution was written and adopted in the late 1780s, some East Coast Indian tribes had been trading with European colonists for at least two centuries. The Indians provided skins and furs to European traders, who in return traded guns, traps, metal goods, cloth, food, beads, alcohol and other goods. The fur trade was the primary economic relation of American Indians to the colonies and European countries. Deer skins were made into leather goods and beaver furs made into fashionable hats.

American Indians were incorporated into the emerging global markets through the fur trade industry, which was an early version of the contemporary global market.

Indians provided hunting skills, tanning production and knowledge, and often transportation to trade posts. While some Indians operated as middlemen for trade with tribes deeper into the interior, most were family or individual hunters and traders. The tribes neither controlled the trade nor profited excessively from it. The trade for European manufactured goods created economic dependencies for tribal economies as they did not produce metal goods, rifles, ammunition and other goods. These dependencies required that tribes make commercial and military alliances, treaties, with one or another of the colonies. During wars, for example during the War of Independence, the United States sought Indian military allies through establishing trade relations. The commerce clause was born from the experience and the colonial rivalries of the late 1700s.

## **WORKSHOP FOCUSES ON RESPECT FOR CULTURE ON THE JOB -**

By JODI RAVE of the Missoulian (09/08/07)

PABLO - It's not always easy to see the world from someone else's perspective when they come from different cultural or ethnic backgrounds. The situation can intensify when one of these people is supposed to be helping the other.

The problems can become especially evident in the workplace, and they can be further compounded in the mental health arena, according to presenters at a cultural competency workshop last week at Salish Kootenai College on the Flathead Reservation.

More than 80 people participated in the workshop to discuss an issue that affects everyone, from mental health workers to Burger King employees.

Here's the bottom line: "How do we treat each other equitably and with respect?" said Joyce Silverthorne, education director for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. "This is not just about ethnic differences."

## **JOB VACANCIES:**

### **JOB OPENING WITH THE DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATION**

**FIELD PROJECT MANAGER, POSITION #61102032** State of Montana, Department of Administration, Helena. Salary \$42,548 to \$53,185 DOQ. Provides construction oversight ensuring quality, efficiency, conformance to plans and specifications, and cost effectiveness on major building and some heavy/civil construction projects. Application deadline: Friday September 28, 2007. For a complete vacancy announcement contact our website at [http://statejobs.mt.gov/pls/mjs/MJS0110W.QueryView?P\\_EMPR\\_ID\\_SEQ=48576&P\\_JORD\\_APPL\\_SEQ=250](http://statejobs.mt.gov/pls/mjs/MJS0110W.QueryView?P_EMPR_ID_SEQ=48576&P_JORD_APPL_SEQ=250)



## EVENTS/TRAINING:

### IS-706 NIMS INTRASTATE MUTUAL AID COURSE - NOW ONLINE

**Course Information:** This FEMA, web-based course provides State, local, and tribal emergency response and coordination personnel an introduction to NIMS intrastate mutual aid. The course discusses the purpose and benefits of mutual aid and assistance, the emphasis that NIMS places on mutual aid and assistance, and explains how to understand mutual aid and assistance agreements and mutual aid operational plans.

**Course Length:** The overall length of the course will vary individually. IS706 takes approximately 2.5 hours to complete.

**Course Objectives:** After completing the course, participants will be able to:

- Describe the purpose, benefits, and uses of mutual aid and assistance.
- Explain how mutual aid and assistance agreements relate to NIMS.
- Identify what information should be included in a mutual aid and assistance agreement.
- Explain the process for developing mutual aid and assistance agreements.
- Identify the elements of a mutual aid and assistance operational plan.

**Course Completion:** The course is available at <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/is706.asp>. When you have completed the course, the final examination is available online too. Fill out the student information and submit the test for scoring. The Emergency Management Institute's (EMI) Independent Study Office will notify you via email of your successful completion of the course and will send you a course certificate.

**Pre-requisite:** The prerequisite for this course is IS-700: National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction.

**Questions:** Please contact the course manager, Maria Moore at (301) 447-1501 or [maria.moore@dhs.gov](mailto:maria.moore@dhs.gov).

### 2007 MONTANA CONFERENCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS "The Journey of Recovery"

October 24-26, 2007, Holiday Inn Parkside Missoula, MT

FOR INFO OR QUESTIONS CALL: 406-458-9738  
[www.namimt.org](http://www.namimt.org)

12 HOURS OF CEU'S ARE BEING OFFERED

## YOUTH SERVICE INSTITUTE PROMOTES SERVICE AND SERVICE-LEARNING SUCCESS

On December 12-14, 2007, in San Diego, CA, Youth Service America will hold its annual [Youth Service Institute, Surfing the Wave of Change](#).

Sponsored by the [Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#), the institute will focus on the following areas impacting service and service-learning success:

- addressing critical global issues through strategic service
- effective methods to increase the impact of youth service
- engaging youth audiences not typically asked to serve (disadvantaged youth, youth with disabilities, younger children, and others)
- planning effective projects

Resources:

To obtain further information and register online, visit <http://ysa.org/ProgramsServices/YouthServiceInstitute/ta/bid/181/Default.aspx>.

Questions may be addressed to Andraéa LaVant at [alavant@ysa.org](mailto:alavant@ysa.org) or 202-296-2992, extension 112.

## GRANTS/OPPORTUNITIES:

### [TAPROOT FOUNDATION'S CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS](#)

Nonprofits in New York City, Boston, San Francisco, Chicago and Seattle can apply for "service grants" from the Taproot Foundation, which links high-skills business professionals with nonprofits to deliver critical advice and support.

Expert support provided by the foundation may include help with marketing, technology, human-resources development, or other focus areas that help groups meet their strategic plans or other objectives.

Only nonprofits working in the areas of health, social services, environment, or primary or secondary education may apply.

Application deadline is Sept. 15. For full details, see the Taproot Foundation website.